

We're an independent charity, established in 2015, devoted to enhancing Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole's (BCP) parks and green spaces for everyone to enjoy, while boosting the conurbation's reputation as a great place to live, work and play. We aim to create inspirational parks that improve people's health and wellbeing, reconnect people with nature and bring diverse communities together. We work in specific parks across the BCP area, as opposed to all green space.

Although BCP Council has overall responsibility to maintain and develop the area's parks, we work alongside them with the aim to raise much needed funds for improvement and enhancements above what the council provide. These enhancements include things such as community growing beds, wildlife ponds, educational events and additional tree planting. BCP Council manages approximately 2,500 hectares of greenspace; a diverse green network of parks, nature reserves, woodlands and river corridors. Greenspaces make a significant contribution towards improving the health and wellbeing of our vibrant communities, whilst helping tackle climate change.

We deliver projects such as:

- Parks in Mind: an ecotherapy, green social prescribing project delivered in Boscombe to improve people's mental and physical wellbeing through the therapeutic nature of being outdoors. We directly engage people struggling with their mental health and enable them to engage in a range of inclusive activities and volunteering opportunities.
- Green Heart Parks: Improving neighbourhood community parks for wildlife and people by making biodiversity improvements and delivering a programme of nature-based engagement activities.
- Providing vibrant, welcoming community cafés which increases the amount of time residents spend in nature, offers activities to reduce social isolation, offers volunteering opportunities and reduces anti-social behaviour by having a presence in the park.
- Fundraising for items such as play equipment, drinking fountains and capital projects to enhance greenspaces.

The Foundation are publicly funded through donations from grants, individuals, major donors and our trading activities. There is no financial arrangement between ourselves and BCP Council.

We work together with BCP Council in good faith and in a spirit of co-operation to achieve and deliver the best for greenspaces in the BCP area. A legal process enables this partnership to deliver the best possible greenspaces for the conurbation as well as transparency over decision making. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) cements the relationship between the two organisations and was refreshed and signed by both organisations in March 2023. This document outlines how the organisations work together. A Project Agreement is created for each project the Foundation works on in a BCP park. A Development Group between the two organisations meets bi-monthly and acts as an idea's incubator and formal group for monitoring collaborative projects. BCP Council's Greenspace Steering Group is a decision-making body comprised solely of council staff and the respective Portfolio Holder, who consider business cases brought forward by the Development Group.

Together we can create amazing parks.

